

ORGANISTS



er, Mrs. Wm. Hauck, Mrs. Clarence Emond, Mrs. Ed. Zell, Miss Alice Zell.

LADIES CHOIR



es. August Antholz, Ralph Schmidt, George Lorenz, Francis VanderLogt, er, Henry Reimer.

es. Chester Schultz, George Sekadlo, Lester Krueger, Russell Kollberg, eke, Arthur Meissner.

Elmer Retzlaff, Clarence Emond, Herman Eckhardt, Charles Reis, David nald Meineke.

1861 — ST. PETER'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH — 1961

MISHICOT, WIS.

ORGANIZATION

The beginning of this congregation followed a very familiar pattern. In the middle of the 19th Century, preachers were "circuit riders", sent out to preach God's Word in a wide area. Their aim was to establish congregations, and as they grew, they would eventually be able to have their own church and Pastor.

Thus it came about, that on May 20, 1861, a group of dedicated Christians organized St. Peter's congregation in the Mishicot Township. The following names are recorded as the Committee for organizing: John Bahls, Louis Barthels, Friedrich Drews, Friedrich Georg, A. Jens, Friedrich Schriever, Claus Schweim, John Sievert, and Carl Wilsmann. The first church services were conducted in a school-house located on cemetery hill, across from Siebold's Mill. Today it is known as the Twin Rivers Co-op. The small flock was first served by Pastor Goldammer, of Manitowoc. He was a pioneer preacher of the Wisconsin Synod. The Mishicot congregation has been a member of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod from its' beginning.

1863 - 1902

During the greater part of these 39 years, the congregation did not have its' own Pastor. For the first nine years, St. Peter's was served by these Pastors of the newly organized congregation in Two Rivers: Bartels (1863-65), Quehl (1865-68), and Zuberbier (1868-72). From 1872-74 the Mishicot people were served by Pastors Nietman and Frankenstein. The congregation had grown sufficiently in these 13 years that now they were able to provide Pastor Frankenstein with a place to live. The house was also used as a school for Christian instructions preceeding Confirmation. Incidentally, this house is still in use today. It is on Hy. 147, a short distance west of the village limits. However, when Pastor Frankenstein left, Mishicot was again served by Pastors of other congregations.

Pastor Jaeger served St. Peter's from 1874-81. In 1875 the congregation built its' first church building. This frame structure served the people until 1927, when the present edifice was erected. Subsequently, until 1902, St. Peter's Congregation was served by the Pastors of St. John's, Two Rivers. They were: John Ph. Koehler (1882-88), who later became the Director of our Seminary in Wauwatosa; A. F. Siegler (1888-92); and Christian Doehler (1892-1902).

1902-1911

1902 was the year when St. Peter's and the congregation at Rockwood (Town of Kossuth) combined to form one parish, to be served by a resident Pastor. The present parsonage was built in Mishicot, and has served as the Pastor's dwelling to this day. The first resident Pastor was a young man by the name of Gustav Vater. We mention an interesting item from the minutes of the Church meeting in 1906; The voters sought to give their Pastor a little, additional, much-needed support, by requesting each member to provide a bag of oats for his horse, or \$1.00 in cash. Money was a scarce item yet in those years; the faithful member would think of his Pastor's needs, and share with him some of his produce, since the salaries at that time were inadequate. Pastor Vater accepted a Call in the year 1907, and the Lord called him to his eternal rest in 1953.

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E. Ph. Dornfeld served St. Peter's from 1908-11. He also came as a young man, and was married while Pastor of our congregation. In 1911, Pastor Dornfeld accepted the Call to succeed his father, at St. Marcus, in Milwaukee, where he faithfully served for well over 40 years. Pastor Dornfeld is still in the active ministry today. He is serving Nathanael Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Thus ended the first half-century of our congregation's existence. We note that at least 13 Pastors served St. Peter's during those 50 years of God's Grace.

THE LAST FIFTY YEARS

In sharp contrast, St. Peter's had but one shepherd for most of the last fifty years. The Lord, in His Grace and Mercy, saw fit to lead this flock with one, faithful shepherd for 47 years. He was Pastor Edward F. Zell. Pastor Zell was born at Minnesota Junction, Dodge County, Wisconsin. He received a Christ-centered primary education at St. John's Lutheran School, Juneau, Wis. for eight years. He then entered Northwestern College in Watertown, where he received his pre-ministerial training thru High School and College. Upon his graduation from our Seminary (then in Wauwatosa), he accepted the Call as Pastor of St. Peter's in Mishicot, and was installed on July 23, 1911.

HIGH-LITES

1912—Pastor Zell was united in marriage with Alice K. Jindra, a member of the congregation, and one of the church organists. The Norwegian congregation at Jambo Creek, in the Town of Gibson, called Pastor Zell to serve them also. This he did until 1949, when the Jambo Creek church disbanded.

1913—Pastor Zell received a Call to leave Mishicot; the congregation, however, asked him to remain, and they raised his salary \$50.00, thereby making an annual income of \$450.00. (This was the first of three Calls which Pastor Zell received, according to the records. The other two came in April and May of 1924. The vote to have him remain, each time, was unanimous.)

1914—The school term was changed from 6 to 8 months. The curriculum consisted primarily of religious instruction for 7th and 8th Grades, with a few secular studies. The school was discontinued a few years later; but the school building was still used for other needs until 1925, when it was sold and moved to make way for the new church building.

1915—Envelope system and recording of offerings were introduced.

1920—English services were begun (once a month).

1925—It was decided to build a new church. Pledges were obtained. The Building Committee members were: George Barthels, Ed. Eckardt, George Jindra, Jr., Richard Schroeder, Paul Sehloff, Charles Stechmesser, and Henry Thielbar. Construction began that same year. The granite stone was quarried at Red Granite, Wis. and shipped by rail to Francis Creek. The church members then brought it to Mishicot by wagon. If one could look at the building from the air, we would notice that it is designed in the form of a cross. The bell tower forms the end of the lower part of the cross, and the wings, containing the side entrances, form the cross member. The method of building was that used by the late George Whiting Flagg, who designed the

ORGANIZATIONS

Mixed Choir—Director, Mrs. Alice Zell (since 1932).

Ladies Choir—Director, Mrs. David Worgull (since 1939).

Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The architect was the late Karl Koehler, a former Professor at Northwestern College in Watertown. The total cost of the building was about \$30,000.00.

1927—The new church was dedicated on June 12th. Former Pastors, Doehler, Dornfeld, and Vater took part in the services.

1930—Voted to have all English services, and but one German service a month.

1933—The Ladies Bible Hour was organized.

1942—Additional land was purchased to the north of the church and house, which serves as the present parking lot.

1953—Pastor and Mrs. Zell's 41st Wedding Anniversary was observed in a special Church service. The congregation presented them with the keys to a new car.

1954—The kitchen in the Parsonage was remodeled; new sidewalks and a black-top driveway were put in.

1955—The congregation purchased a new Conn Electronic organ.

1956—Observance of Pastor Zell's 45th Anniversary in the Ministry.

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The year 1958 brought with it quite a change for the members of St. Peter's. Their faithful shepherd, Edward Zell, preached his last sermon on January 26th. In failing health the past few years, Pastor Zell entered the hospital on Feb. 1st. On the 28th of Feb., his Lord and Savior called him to his eternal home. It was a deep loss to the congregation, for Pastor Edward Zell was the only shepherd that many of the members ever had. During those 47 years, Pastor Zell officiated at 648 Baptisms, 579 confirmed, 211 marriages, and 246 burials. Mrs. Zell is still an active member of the congregation served so well by her husband.

After a short vacancy of three months, Pastor David Worgull was installed in the St. Peter's and Rockwood congregations. He formerly was a missionary to the Apache Indians in the Cibecue, Ariz. field, and also was Pastor of St. Paul's congregation in Naper, Nebraska. During the past few years a few of the physical changes that took place were as follows: the Pastor's study was changed; a Vacation Bible School was begun; a new garage was built; a landscaping project was undertaken; an outdoor bulletin board was erected with Memorial monies; and just this spring, the congregation purchased about 4 acres of land to the north of the church. It is the desire that, someday, in the near future, the Lord will lead us to see fit to begin our own Christian Day School.

To that end, we are dedicating our offerings from these Centennial services to the start of a Christian Day School Fund. This is our Centennial project. We can think of no better way to thank our Lord for 100 years of Grace, and to dedicate ourselves, in the coming years, to offering the saving Gospel-message in still greater measure, especially to our Savior's lambs.

May our Triune God open our hearts wide, so that our bountiful gifts may bring this project to reality in the near future; may He richly bless us in such fruits of faith!

STATISTICS

St. Peter's congregation, this Centennial year, consists of:

Souls — 485

Communicants — 345

Sunday School — 90

ORGANIZATIONS

Mixed Choir—Director, Miss Alice Zell (since 1932).

Ladies Choir—Director, Mrs. David Worgull (since 1959).

Young People's Bible Class (since 1958).

Adult Bible Class (since 1961).

Ladies Bible Hour (since 1933).

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CENTENNIAL SCHEDULE:

Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1961:

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Centennial Services—Pastor Edward Zell—Detroit, Mich.

11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Dinner

3:00 p.m. Confirmation Reunion.

Pastor Wm. Zell—Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.

Sunday, Sept. 17th, 1961:

9:30 a.m. Christian Education—Pastor Kenneth Vertz—Owosso, Mich.

Sunday, Sept. 24th, 1961:

9:30 a.m. Communion Service—Pastor David Worgull (present pastor)

Sunday, Oct. 1st, 1961:

9:30 a.m. Mission Festival—Pastor Donald Laude—Coleman, Wis.

2:00 p.m. Mission Festival—Pastor Arlyn Schmeling—Two Rivers, Wis.

CONCLUSION

We thank our Lord for 100 years of Grace!

We ask Him for His continued Grace in the next Century, and trust in Him for all our help, for His promise ever remains:

"LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS"